

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Josefina Cortes and I am from New Haven.

I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD FOR AN INCOME ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN HEALTH CARE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY to age 18, regardless of immigration status, is an important step in ensuring that our immigrant community has access to the health care we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and health care to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

It is important to have health insurance for our children to be healthy and dignified and to support their maturation and growth. I have had the experience of not having health insurance. You do not have the same health care that people with health insurance have. I have suffered from knee pain for some time now and when I go to the doctor they only give me tylenol or advil or a cream to help with the pain but that does not take it away. The doctors tell me that since I do not have health insurance, they cannot transfer me to a specialist because I don't have insurance unless I pay for it myself and unfortunately my economic situation I can't afford a specialist. So I have to continue with the knee pains that are growing more and have now become a chronic issue for lack of health insurance. Passing this legislation would help us a lot in terms of our health and that of our children since we would be able to go more frequently to our medical checkups and we would have better health and there would not be so many people with chronic diseases and we would be able to detect any disease in time.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Going forward, I ask the committee to work to open access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Maria De Los Angeles Suero Matos